



HEALTH ADVISORY # 78

Cluster of Severe Systemic Enterovirus Infection in Neonates

TO: West Virginia Laboratories, Primary Care Physicians, Pediatricians, Intensivists, Pediatric and Neonatal ICUs, Nurseries, OB/GYNs, Healthcare Providers, Acute Care Facilities, Infection Preventionists and Other Healthcare Facilities

FROM: Letitia Tierney, MD, JD, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, LABORATORIES, MICROBIOLOGY SUPERVISORS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

The WV Bureau for Public Health is working with local health departments to investigate a cluster of severe systemic enterovirus infection in neonates.

Enterovirus infection in neonates can range from self-limited disease to generalized multi-system organ failure and sepsis. Early symptoms may be mild and non-specific and may include listlessness, anorexia, and transient respiratory distress; fever may or may not be present. Symptoms develop in neonates with generalized enterovirus disease within 3 -10 days of life. The most common characteristic clinical syndromes include either myocarditis or fulminant hepatitis.

Risk factors associated with severe disease include absence of neutralizing antibody to the infecting serotype, maternal illness prior to or at delivery (60-70% of women who give birth to infected infants are febrile during the last week of pregnancy), and prematurity.

Please consider enterovirus infections in neonates with compatible/severe clinical symptoms. Viral culture and PCR are effective methods for the detection of enterovirus. Advantages of using PCR over viral culture include faster results and improved sensitivity.

Please report suspected cases of systemic enterovirus infection in neonates to your local health department immediately. If you have any questions, please call the WV Bureau for Public Health at 1-800-423-1271 ext 1(in WV).

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

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Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.